



North Carolina National Guard Press Release

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TO: News Directors, Editors
FROM: Maj. Matt Handley
Public Affairs Officer
DATE: March 24, 2008
RE: Two NC National Guard Soldiers Killed in Iraq

Raleigh – Two NC Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1132 Military Police Company of the NC Army National Guard were killed near Baghdad Iraq on Saturday March 22. A third Soldier assigned to the 1132 was also killed; he was a member of the New Hampshire Army National Guard. The 1132 Military Police Company is headquartered in Rocky Mount North Carolina

Sgt. Thomas C. Ray 40, of Weaverville North Carolina and Sgt. David Williams 26 of Tarboro North Carolina were killed when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device while on patrol.

"All of the Guard is saddened by the loss of Sgt. Ray and Sgt. Williams and our thoughts and prayers are with their families," said Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr., Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard. "The NC National Guard will continue to serve with distinction wherever we are needed."

Sgt. Ray began his service to the nation in 1985 by joining the Navy and served three years on active duty as a Navy Medical Specialist and he then joined the NC Army National Guard in May of 2006. He graduated in the top of his class at the 31B Basic Military Police Course and became a qualified Military Police officer in June 2007 qualifying as "Expert" with his 9 millimeter pistol shooting 50 out of 50 during qualification. Sgt. Ray was awarded the Army Commendation Medal in January by the Commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade for "Exceptionally Commendable Service while serving as a Gunner during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. Ray's dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overall success of the unit's mission." Sgt. Ray was married with one teenage daughter

Sgt. David Williams joined the NC Army National Guard in July 2003, serving as 31B Military Police Soldier, SGT Williams was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, the first was with the NC Army National Guard's 105th Military Police Battalion which operated Camp Bucca (Boo Kah), a large detention facility in southern Iraq. He was awarded the Combat Action Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal for his service, his battalion commander noting that he was a "Quality Soldier". SGT Williams transferred to the 1132nd MP Company and was assigned as a team leader and was recently awarded a second Army Commendation Medal this January from the Commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade for "Exceptionally Commendable Service while serving as a Driver during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. Williams dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overall success of the units mission." Sgt. Williams is survived by his mother and sister.

The 1132 Military Police Company mobilized in June of 2007 with about 120 Soldiers and is stationed in Baghdad Iraq. They are due to return to NC this fall.

This brings the total of NC National Guard Soldiers killed in action to seven. However NC Guard units have had soldiers from active duty and other components assigned to them that have been killed in action.

Additional information on the DOD website: <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/>.

Editors Note: The family members of Sgt. Williams and Sgt. Ray request that media respect this time of grieving and refrain from contacting the family directly. Media with additional questions are requested to contact the NC National Guard Public Affairs Office at 919-664-6242. Funeral Arrangements and any other additional information will follow in further releases.